

June 07, 2017

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester, Delaware County, New York was held on Wednesday, June 07, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Present: Arthur M. Merrill Supervisor  
Janet L. Champlin Councilwoman  
Mark W. Mattson Councilman  
Julie A. Markert Councilwoman  
Gregory L. Lavorgna Councilman  
Recording Secretary: Julie B. Townsend Town Clerk

Others present: Kenneth R. Eck, Jr.-Highway Supt., Jeff Francisco-Delaware Engineering, Lillian Browne-The Reporter, Joan Homovich, Janice Stickle, Ron MacDonald, Alan Donner and Sarah Hood.

The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the last regular meeting, May 17, 2017 had been distributed earlier. Janet Champlin made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Mark Mattson, all in favor, motion carried.

VISITOR COMMENTS: Jeff Francisco of Delaware Engineering reported that we will be sending in a pay reimbursement to EFC for the CFWD; it has been raining too much to proceed with the project. NYSDOH wants another engineering report for the DWD Project and a Corrosion Control Report; we should be able to close the account and get some short term funding.

Sarah Hood commented on behalf of the Best Dam Town Race, that this year's race will be held Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>; the race will be from 8am to 10:30am; they are adding a paddle section and ½ marathon; race will be in the area of Mink Brook Road and River Road to Shinhopple; requesting to have more police present. Supervisor commented that he's glad they are continuing the race and there should be no problem; Board asked for a Public Facility Permit.

Joan Homovich inquired to the increase for the DWD; now the minimum is \$35.00 for 3,000 gallons; have you considered raising the minimum gallons? Supervisor replied that it is counterproductive to raise the minimum gallons; if we increase the minimum by \$15, we will increase our revenue by \$13,260 per year; our reserve account has been going down for the last few years and may not have enough funds until the end of the year; we will discuss the increase later in the meeting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance, Office of Real Property Tax Services- Tentative Equalization Rate for the Town of Colchester is 3.04.
- Beta & Hank Adams- Praise to Officer Carl Beers for an outstanding job; he was courteous, kind, thoughtful and efficient as was the Downsville EMS & Fire Dept.; they had hit a deer on their way to Oneonta; they are grateful and thankful to all.
- Utica Center for Development Inc.- expanding Veteran services to the Catskill region by operating the Catskill Veterans Outreach Center at the location formerly known as the Delaware Inn located in Stamford; exploring fundraising options to help offset the costs of operations; if anyone is interested in hosting a fundraiser of any kind, let them know.
- Arnold Sherwood- Letter of retirement effective October 10, 2017; last day of work is June 7<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor reported that a luncheon was held Monday and that he had prepared a Proclamation which he gave Arnold on Monday; Supervisor read the following:

## PROCLAMATION

### Arnold A. Sherwood Day

Whereas on October 5, 1987 the Town of Colchester hired a local resident as a permanent fulltime employee; and

Whereas he began his tenure on the Highway Department as a Mechanic; and

Whereas after less than two years on June 7, 1989 he was promoted to Shop Foreman; and

Whereas after many years as a fulltime mechanic where he continued to display his expertise and dedication he was promoted to Deputy Highway Superintendent in 2015; and

Whereas he has continued to be an invaluable employee for the Town of Colchester and an integral and essential member of our community; and

Whereas he has been a faithful employee for 30 years;

Now, Therefore, We, the Town Board of the Town of Colchester do hereby proclaim June 5, 2017 as Arnold A. Sherwood Day.

NO. 42-2017 06/07/17 Retirement Letter from Arnold A. Sherwood

Julie Markert made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on June 07, 2017 a Letter of Retirement was presented to Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill from Arnold A. Sherwood as Mechanic and Deputy Supt. of Highways of the Town Highway Dept.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts said Letter of Retirement of Arnold A. Sherwood effective October 10, 2017;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby thanks Arnold for his 30 Years of service to the township and wishes him well in his retirement.

Resolution was seconded by Janet Champlin, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

REPORTS- written reports on file at Town Clerk's Office:

- Cooks Falls Water District- May 2017- 21 customers balance due \$1,660.50; Receipts of \$671.55 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Downsville Water District- May 2017- 45 customers balance due \$3,671.00; Receipts of \$2,039.99 disbursed to Supervisor.
- Town Clerk- May 2017 -Total disbursed \$1,534.60 of which \$1,472.60 was Town revenues.
- Town Justice DeRosia- May 2017.
- Town Justice Edel- May 2017.
- Planning Board- April 20, 2017 Minutes.

Supervisor reported that he has received correspondence from the SAM Grant wondering why we needed more money than was budgeted for; somehow they lumped the Salt Shed Project and the Town Hall Renovation Project together; they are looking into this further; they also wanted more information on the CFWD and DWD Projects which Supervisor sent; three days later asked for more info on CFWD; they are moving forward very slowly; others in Delaware County are also having the same problem.

Supervisor Merrill reported that Jeff Francisco is trying to get us money (\$41,206.25 expenses in 2016) for the CFWD Water System Improvements Project- DWSRF #16601; we have \$62,057.26 available in Grant Funds; Louie Banker is not working, still too muddy.

Supervisor reported that we have discussed moving the cemetery shed; now we are looking at the drainage problem; Hwy Supt and Supervisor suggest putting in a catch basin with gravel in the ditch, above the Veterans' Memorial. Board discussed.

Supervisor Merrill reported that the Cemetery Dept. has purchased a mulching kit (around \$500); they got one and like it; need to mow when grass is low; they are getting another one; they are looking at Turro mowers with rear discharge; cemetery looking good; no one went up for ceremony as there was no parade on Memorial Day. Councilwoman Markert commented that we go through this every year; could we start out with more than two coming from highway to cemetery? Supervisor replied that Highway Supt. offered help but it was too late; we will have to look into this for next year; we did get compliments from Jackie Houck and Jim Shields that Paige Cemetery looked good and praised the workers.

Supervisor reported the following:

- 2008 Morbark Chipper has been delivered; voucher in tonight for \$18,000.
- Waiting for quote on back steps project.
- Still waiting for funds from FEMA and the amount owed to them for Holiday Brook Rd.

Supervisor Merrill reported that the Colchester Senior Citizens did not have enough people signed up to go on an overnight trip to Lancaster, PA therefore they are requesting to cancel Public Facility Permit No.03-2017; they are now making application for Public Facility Permit for two more dates. Board discussed. Board inquired to the funds already presented to the Senior Citizens; Supervisor will contact President Alfretta Doig.

NO. 43-2017 06/07/17 Public Facility Permit No.07-2017

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Alfretta Doig on behalf of the Colchester Senior Citizens has applied for a Public Facility Permit to use the Pepacton Park located at 15500 State Hwy 30, on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00AM to 7:00PM for parking approximately 15 cars for lunch & show day trip to Cooperstown, NY;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to issue Public Facility Permit No.07-2017 to the Colchester Senior Citizens for the use of the Pepacton Park located at 15500 State Hwy 30, Downsville, NY on August 22, 2017.

Resolution was seconded by Mark Mattson, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

NO. 44-2017 06/07/17 Public Facility Permit No.08-2017

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Alfretta Doig on behalf of the Colchester Senior Citizens has applied for a Public Facility Permit to use the Pepacton Park located at 15500 State Hwy 30, on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30AM to 7:00PM for parking approximately 15 cars for a day trip to Ehrhardt's aka Silver Birches in PA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to issue Public Facility Permit No.08-2017 to the Colchester Senior Citizens for the use of the Pepacton Park located at 15500 State Hwy 30, Downsville, NY on September 13, 2017.

Resolution was seconded by Mark Mattson, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

Janice Stickle presented a list of lifeguards she would like to have this summer at the pool; three guards are not returning from last year; she would like to have two more full time guards, for a total of four; and five part-time guards; the part-time guards would have more hours at the end of the season as some will be going off to college. Pool will open June 26<sup>th</sup>, swimming lessons will start July 5<sup>th</sup> and the water carnival will be Sat., July 29<sup>th</sup>. Board discussed.

NO. 45-2017 06/07/17 Appoint 2017 Pool Personnel

Janet Champlin made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby hires the following pool personnel at corresponding wages for the 2017 Pool Season:

Janice L. Stickle	Pool Recreation Director	\$12.90 per hour
Carli R. Pinner	Returning WSI & Full-time Lifeguard	\$10.65 per hour
Rebecca R. Reed	Returning WSI & Full-time Lifeguard	\$10.65 per hour
Kacie S. Banker	Full-time Lifeguard	\$9.75 per hour
Corra A. Nocella	Full-time Lifeguard	\$9.75 per hour
Gabrielle L. Ryan	Part-time Lifeguard	\$9.75 per hour
Mollie E. Engle	Part-time Lifeguard	\$9.75 per hour
Luccia L. Martucci	Part-time Lifeguard	\$9.75 per hour
Kenzy M. Hammond	Part-time Lifeguard	\$9.75 per hour
Mackenzie B. Burnham	Part-time Lifeguard	\$9.75 per hour

Resolution seconded by Julie Markert, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor Merrill reported that we have received a couple more applications for the summer help at the Cemetery Dept.; after review of the applications the Cemetery Supervisor has made the recommendation to hire Dakota Fletcher. Board discussed.

NO. 46-2017 06/07/17 2017 Seasonal Cemetery Laborer

Upon the recommendation of the Cemetery Supervisor, Julie Markert made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town's Summer/Youth Employment Policy states that youths must be students continuing their education and must be enrolled full-time status and verification of student status is required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby hires Dakota Fletcher as a New Seasonal Cemetery Laborer at the rate of \$9.75 per hour with no benefits for the 2017 Season.

Resolution seconded by Mark Mattson, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

Supervisor reported that Marty Posner will be at the Highway Garage on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 11am for annual AFLAC Enrollment; any Town employee who is interested is invited to attend.

Supervisor Merrill reported that we received a letter from Senator John Bonacic for another SAM Grant; they now allow equipment. Supervisor asked the Board for suggested projects at our next meeting.

Supervisor reported that he has received a request from Marian & Stub Ploutz for a letter of support for a convenience store and truck stop in the area of NYS Route 10 and County Hwy 26. Board approved.

Supervisor Merrill reported that we have reviewed the DWD Budget; we are making a recommendation to increase the flat rate (minimum of 3000 gal) \$15.00 and then a \$3.00 per thousand gallons over the minimum 3000; the system is aging; the leak at Byington's was very expensive and also the 3 leaks at Harry's; O&M costs should go down; we are required more tests with higher costs; we also suggest that the Big 3: DCS, DFD & Town have an increase of \$1,000 making it \$6,000 per year for each; we still need a fee for turning water on & off and a charge for their fault letting the water/meter freeze and/or damages. WPO MacDonald stated that we need a written policy. Board discussed.

Greg Lavorgna made the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester in the exercise of its powers as Governing Board of the Downsville Water District, an improvement district in the Town of Colchester, hereby establishes new quarterly water rates in said Downsville Water District for water consumers in said district, via:

- 1) Flat Rate (un-metered property) - \$45.00 quarterly minimum plus \$5.00 Capital Charge for a total of \$50.00.
- 2) Metered users- minimum rate - \$45.00 quarterly minimum plus \$5.00 Capital Charge for a total of \$50.00 quarterly, which entitles user to use up to 3000 gallons per quarter;
- 3) A \$3.00 per thousand gallons will be charged in excess of 3000 gallons of water used.
- 4) Eligible real property owners for water use service in the Downsville Water District where unconnected with water system - Flat Rate -\$50.00 quarterly minimum.
- 5) Downsville Central School District, unlimited usage, \$6,000.00 per annum payable quarterly (\$1,500) on January 1<sup>st</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- 6) Downsville Fire District, unlimited usage, \$6,000.00 per annum payable October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- 7) Town of Colchester, unlimited usage, \$6,000.00 per annum payable October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Unpaid water charge in arrears of thirty days or longer is subject to a 10% penalty on amount due and will be added to the next quarterly water bill.

Water bills shall be mailed to users on January 1<sup>st</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, and shall be due and payable within thirty days after mailing.

These rates shall be effective as of July 01, 2017.

All persons requesting service from the DWD shall be responsible for the cost of a tapping fee which shall be Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). All laterals installed by users will be of copper piping as approved by the Water Plant Operator. Each user shall maintain the lateral service pipe from the system to the customer's building free of leaks and shall maintain such quality of piping as approved by the Water Plant Operator. In the event that repairs to lateral service are required by any customer, the customer will immediately notify the Water Plant Operator.

Resolution was seconded by Janet Champlin.

This resolution was put to a vote by roll call and resulted as follows:

Town Supervisor, Arthur M. Merrill	voting aye
Councilperson, Mark W. Mattson	voting aye
Councilperson, Julie A. Markert	voting aye
Councilperson, Janet L. Champlin	voting aye
Councilperson, Gregory L. Lavorgna	voting aye

The resolution was declared to be duly adopted by the members of the Town Board of the Town of Colchester.

Councilman Mattson commented that with the springs we will still have to add chemicals. Supervisor replied that we should have to add fewer chemicals. Councilman Mattson suggested that maybe we should look into borrowing \$30,000 to repair/replace meters.

Supervisor Merrill reported that on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, there was an accident at the Transfer Station; a woman was unloading her truck and fell into an empty C&D bin; we have talked with our insurance company. Board discussed corrective measures.

Councilwoman Markert asked if the Town would be willing to truck 200 yards of sand from J&A to the Firemen's Field. Supervisor replied that we should not.

Councilwoman Markert commented that the Delaware Valley Ridge Riders held a Snowmobile Watercross Race on June 4&5; our K-9 unit was there from 1-7pm, dog may have been out of vehicle once. Supervisor replied that the handler stated it was an event and wanted to be there to police the area.

Joan Homovich inquired to the recent robberies; we have 10 cops on payroll; state trooper would not fingerprint costs too high; this woman sleeps with a poker iron; can't the police investigate instead of patrolling main streets for drug busts; this woman has no peace of mind. Supervisor commented not sure what can be done.

Councilwoman Markert inquired of how far away a town police employee can live to take the police vehicle home. Supervisor replied that we will have to look into this.

**SUBMISSION OF BILL/EXPENSES:** Greg Lavorgna made the motion, seconded by Mark Mattson, that the vouchers be approved, subject to any corrections or deletions, all in favor, motion carried. Abstract No.10-2017 Voucher No.243-282; Totaling \$110,323.94.

Supervisor Merrill made the following announcements:

- Next Regular Board Meeting Wed., June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7PM
- Town Clerk's Office Closed Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> – Training

Janet Champlin made the motion to go into executive session to discuss police personnel issues, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, motion carried. Board entered executive session at 9:09 PM. Town Clerk was invited to stay. Board held discussion. Mark Mattson made the motion to enter back into regular session, seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, motion carried. Board entered regular session at 9:19 PM. Board held discussion and accepted a Letter of Resignation from Marina Begunoff due to too many conflicts with full time employment and home life to be able to continue taking shifts for the Town of Colchester.

NO. 48-2017 06/07/17 Accept Letter of Resignation Marina Begunoff

Mark Mattson made the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on June 05, 2017 a letter of resignation was presented to Supervisor Arthur M. Merrill from Marina Begunoff as Police Officer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Colchester hereby accepts said Letter of Resignation from Marina Begunoff as a Town of Colchester Police Officer effective immediately;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby thanks Marina for her service to the township and wishes her well in future endeavors.

Resolution was seconded by Greg Lavorgna, all in favor, resolution declared adopted.

With no further business, Janet Champlin made the motion for adjournment, seconded by Mark Mattson, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie B. Townsend  
Town Clerk